

## Weekly Weather Crop Report

In cooperation with

Mississippi Department of  
Agriculture and Commerce

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Week Ending September 26, 2004

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According to the Mississippi Agricultural Statistics Service, there were 6.5 days suitable for fieldwork for the **week ending September 26, 2004**. There is a general lack of adequate moisture throughout the western and central parts of the state to properly germinate recently planted cool season crops. Hay harvesting and ryegrass planting have been affected by the lack of rain. Dry weather conditions have allowed farmers time in the fields to continue harvesting, and to perform fall tillage operations. Group V soybeans are close to being ready for harvest with corn harvesting almost complete. Soil moisture was rated 24 percent very short, 31 percent short, and 45 percent adequate.

Progress In Percentages						Conditions in Percentages				
Item	Event	This Week	Last Week	2003	5-Yr Avg	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Corn	Harvested	97	93	95	95	--	--	--	--	--
Cotton	Open Bolls	92	84	88	96	3	4	19	53	21
	Harvested	21	7	26	30					
Rice	Mature	98	95	98	96	--	--	--	--	--
	Harvested	86	73	72	69					
Sorghum	Harvested	99	94	97	96	--	--	--	--	--
Soybeans	Turning Color	100	98	94	94	--	--	--	--	--
	Shedding Leaves	97	91	84	84					
	Harvested	84	73	65	53					
Hay (Warm Season)	Harvested	90	86	97	94	--	--	--	--	--
Sweetpotatoes	Harvested	30	17	44	46	1	8	39	42	10
Cattle						3	7	16	60	14
Pasture						6	14	43	35	2

### County Agent Comments

“Corn harvest is almost complete. Soybean harvest is over half finished with above average yields. Cotton is slow to open, and insect pressure is light. Pastures are yellowing because of the lack of moisture. Planted wheat needs a shower to germinate.”

— Tim Needham, Tippah

“Even though areas all around us have received rain, most of this area has remained dry through four tropical storms. Soil moisture is too low to germinate cool season grazing crops and grains, but the dry period has been good for those harvesting field crops.”

— Ernest Flint, Attala

“Our county has been dry throughout the tropical storm monsoons. Cool season crops have not had enough moisture to germinate well, and those seeds germinating may not survive. The dry weather, however, has allowed corn producers to almost completely harvest their crops and has been good for the cotton opening up.”

— Kay Emmons, Montgomery

“Ivan took away about an average of 200 pounds from the cotton producers in Noxubee county. One variety was hit very hard with a potential yield loss of about 400 pounds of cotton. Some corn in Clay and Lowndes county was destroyed by Ivan. Our soybean crop did fine through Ivan, and yields continue to be way above average.”

— Dr. Dennis B. Reginelli, Noxubee

“Rain is needed on forages in the county, and the soil is very dry. Some producers have prepared seed beds to plant ryegrass, but the soil does not have an adequate amount of moisture to plant ryegrass.”

— Thomas E. Brewer, Jefferson Davis

“Ryegrass planting is in full swing although conditions are very dry. We need moisture to get ryegrass up and going along with some cool weather.”

— Perry Brumfield, Lincoln

“Pastures are in an extremely poor condition. Winter forage crops really need a rain to germinate.”

— Mark Gillie, Greene

“Cotton harvest is in high gear and the crop looks better than most thought it would be. Producers are waiting for Group V soybeans to get ready, and rice harvest is well past 60% harvested. The only things needing rain now are yards and turnip greens.”

— Mack Young, Quitman

“Harvest will be in full swing for cotton on the 27th. All of the Group IV beans are in, and the Group V beans are starting to turn. The one pest that we are having trouble with is the spittlebug, and is in the pastures and hay fields. It has killed some hay fields and pastures. We need a winter!”

— Stephen R. Winters Grenada

“Cooler, drier weather allowed soybean and corn harvests to progress. Cotton harvest aids are working well, and harvest operation will begin this week.”

— Jay Phelps, Pontotoc

“Weather conditions were excellent for harvesting and fall tillage work.”

— Jerry Singleton, Leflore

“Harvest is going great. A shower would help dry conditions, but would slow harvesting.”

— Tommy Baird, Sunflower

“DRY is the word that best describes it. Ryegrass planting and hay cutting have both stopped completely. Everything needs a good rain.”

— Houston Therrell, Rankin

“Hot, dry weather persists. We could use a good soaking rain to allow planting of ryegrass.”

— Lee Taylor, Forrest

“Ivan is gone but not forgotten, especially in the cotton crop. The cotton got hammered in most of the county. Peanuts, on the other hand, emerged unscathed and is a good lesson in spreading out your risk.”

— Mike Steede, George

“Pastures have declined significantly in the last three weeks due to the lack of rain. Ryegrass pastures have been prepared, but are waiting for a good chance of rain before planting. Hay supplies are plentiful.”

— Chuck Grantham, Jones

“Ryegrass continues to be planted as weather and moisture conditions allow. Some fall tillage operations have been completed as producers take advantage of good weather.”

— Victor Lee, Newton

“Producers are still looking for rain. Rainfall that was predicted to accompany Hurricane Ivan and the tropical storm never materialized, leaving fields and pastures dry and dusty. Pastures are beginning to show the stress from lack of rainfall and grazing. Pastures and fields are desperately in need of rainfall.”

— Florieda K. Mason, Perry

“Very dry! Ponds are suffering and we need rain.”

— Judith Breland, Stone

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Additional comments appear on the Internet at: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/ms/cwyears.htm>

This publication is part of a series that first began in 1872 and has been continuously published since. In Mississippi, this report is a result of the cooperative efforts of:

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**Weather Summary from September 20, 2004 to September 26, 2004 for Mississippi**

District/Station	Air Temperature					Precipitation				4 Inch Soil Temperature			Avg Pan Evap
	Max	Min	Avg	Norm	DFN	One Week	DFN	Rain Days	Four Weeks	Max	Min	Avg	
1. Upper Delta													
Charleston	89	49	71	71	0	0.00	-0.74	0	0.73				
Cleveland	88	54	74	72	+2	0.00	-0.63	0	0.04				
Tunica	86	55	74	71	+3	0.00	-0.63	0	0.52				0.22
Extreme/Average	89	49	73	72	+1	0.00	-0.71	0	0.43				0.22
2. North-Central													
Hickory Flat	87	49	70	70	0	0.00	-0.89	0	0.93				
Calhoun City	85	52	70	71	-1	0.00	-0.79	0	0.70				
Independence	86	45	69	70	-1	0.00	-0.79	0	0.03				
Oxford	87	53	72	70	+2	0.00	-0.84	0	0.73				
Extreme/Average	87	45	70	71	-1	0.00	-0.84	0	0.60				
3. Northeast													
Booneville	86	54	70	70	0	0.00	-0.84	0	2.10				
Iuka				68		0.00	-0.96	0	5.01				
Ripley	85	50	68	69	-1	0.00	-0.89	0	0.79				
Tupelo	88	53	71			0.00		0	1.86				
Verona	90	55	73	71	+2	0.00	-0.93	0	3.31				0.21
Extreme/Average	90	50	70	70	0	0.00	-0.91	0	2.61				0.21
4. Lower Delta													
Moorhead	89	58	76	74	+2	0.00	-0.84	0	0.92				
Rolling Fork	90	56	75	73	+2	0.00	-0.75	0	0.40	95	72	85	
Stoneville	90	53	74	73	+1	0.00	-0.79	0	0.04	91	72	81	1.78
Yazoo City	87	58	75	74	+1	0.00	-0.70	0	0.00				
Extreme/Average	90	53	75	73	+2	0.00	-0.77	0	0.34	95	72	83	1.78
5. Central													
Canton	88	50	73	73	0	0.00	-0.70	0	0.67				
Carthage	87	53	70	73	-3	0.00	-0.79	0	0.79				
Lexington	86	51	71	72	-1	0.00	-0.70	0	0.07				
Eupora	86	51	69	71	-2	0.00	-0.91	0	1.55				
Extreme/Average	88	50	71	72	-1	0.00	-0.81	0	0.77				
6. East-Central													
Aberdeen	89	54	73	71	+2	0.00	-0.91	0	2.07				0.22
Houston	87	50	71	70	+1	0.00	-0.90	0	1.73				
Louisville	84	58	71	71	0	0.00	-0.90	0	2.54				
State University	88	52	71	72	-1	0.00	-0.81	0	5.06	78	72	75	0.18
Extreme/Average	89	50	71	72	-1	0.00	-0.84	0	2.85	78	72	75	0.20
7. Southwest													
Crystal Springs	89	55	74	74	0	0.00	-1.02	0	1.61	91	75	82	
Natchez	86	58	74	75	-1	0.38	-0.46	2	0.65				
Oakley	90	54	72	73	-1	0.00	-0.69	0	0.29	91	76	84	
Vicksburg	85	58	73			0.00		0	1.62				
Extreme/Average	90	54	73	74	-1	0.10	-0.76	1	1.04	91	75	83	
8. South-Central													
Collins	88	59	74	73	+1	0.00	-0.96	0	0.50				
Columbia	90	57	74	74	0	0.01	-0.92	1	0.37				
Tylertown	88	58	74	75	-1	0.08	-0.83	1	1.72				
Extreme/Average	90	57	74	74	0	0.03	-0.90	1	0.86				
9. Southeast													
Beaumont	92	57	76			0.00		0	2.59				
Hattiesburg	88	57	74	75	-1	0.00	-0.95	0	2.79				
Laurel	88	58	73	74	-1	0.00	-0.97	0	0.97				
Newton				72		0.00	-0.83	0	3.19				0.20
Extreme/Average	92	57	74	74	0	0.00	-0.95	0	2.39				0.20
10. Coastal													
Bay St Louis	95	61	76	76	0	0.22	-0.93	1	3.38				
Gulfport	89	63	76	77	-1	0.03	-1.32	1	4.52				
Poplarville				75		0.00	-0.94	0	3.97	86	72	79	0.22
Waveland	85	64	75	75	0	0.00	-1.40	0	4.20				
Extreme/Average	95	61	76	76	0	0.06	-1.20	1	3.85	86	72	79	0.22
State	95	45	73	73	0	0.02	-0.86	0	1.55	95	72	80	0.57

DFN = Departure from Normal.